

Bribery Alone Can Save Brome for Fisher

OUR BROME CAMPAIGN

We are still resolved that we will run in Brome county against Mr. Fisher if we are able to get twenty-five signers for our nomination papers. We have promised these names and if those who have promised do not go back on their word we will run.

There are many things we do not like in the policy pursued by Mr. Fisher. We do not like the way he can neglect the promises he has made. He is the member of a cabinet many of whose members are, to say the least, absolutely incapable of running a public department in the interest of the people. He raises no protest against the corruption around him but goes on tending to his little duties while Canada is being robbed.

We desire to represent the strong temperance element of Brome County in Parliament. The question of prohibition should have at least one voice in the Parliament of Canada. Mr. Fisher was once regarded as the hope of the temperance people of the Dominion. Mr. Fisher evidently raised the banner of temperance over his head as a means of waving himself into power. By neglecting the temperance principles in parliament, Mr. Fisher shows himself in his true light. He is the veriest time-server of all who have sought public office during the past twelve years.

Mr. Fisher does not act in the interest of the farmers. The most enlightened counties pay the farmers for cattle that cannot be used because of tuberculosis. Mr. Fisher has sent many an infant to its death by the regulations he has enacted at Ottawa. Mr. Fisher cares not for the public health or the lives of the little children or the hard struggles of the farmers.

Mr. Fisher prates of what he has done for the farmer. He has stood idly by, busying himself with trifles, while trusts and railroads and private friends of the government monopolized the funds which the farmers have provided for the government of Canada.

We wish to run in Brome County because Mr. Fisher has long ceased to represent any principles at all, save the principle of himself in office and it is time for some younger member of the Liberal party to come forward and grasp the torch of Liberalism from his weakened grasp.

MR. FISHER AND TUBERCULOSIS

Now that the elections are near the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will remember with many qualms the meeting he called together at Cowansville to discuss the question of tuberculosis in cattle. At that meeting the Minister said many things which showed he did not understand the struggles the farmers have undergone with regard to this question. He admitted that his regulations governing this question made the way of honesty hard and dishonesty easy. He admitted that many deaths were due to diseased milk and that the law which fines a man for finding out that his cattle are diseased was liable to reward dishonest ignorance. He believed, however, that it was the duty of the farmers to find out if his cattle were diseased and if they were to kill them. He himself had once lost two thousand dollars over diseased cattle and if he, the Minister of Agriculture with an income of nine thousand a year, could afford to drown two thousand dollars on diseased cattle he considered that a farmer working himself to death to pay off a mortgage could afford also to stand the loss from diseased cattle.

The government can afford to waste millions of money in extravagance but such extravagance is reserved strictly for the pompous and wealthy friends of the government. The farmers must not be allowed to get any of the governmental largess. All they have to do is to pay the taxes out of which the government friends grow rich.

The Minister of Agriculture has not the force of character necessary to give the farmer his dues. He is a helpless mortal who can neither help the farmer directly nor keep him from being plundered by more designing ministers. Like all weaklings the Minister of Agriculture must be swept aside for stronger men who can fight for the interests of the farmer.

MISSISQUOI

Missisquoi is a farming community and a laboring constituency. There are very few individuals who have the financial means of either the present member or of the Conservative candidate. Mr. Ford is a working farmer and intends to run as such. Mr. Meigs, the Liberal representative, can sit in an easy chair and direct the campaign from afar. Dr. Pickel, the Conservative candidate, has the leisure to scurry over the county and interview the electors personally. Mr. Ford is fulfilling his present duties in life by attending strictly to the management of his farm. It is said that no man can enter politics and remain honest. Mr. Ford does not intend to enter politics. He simply intends to run as a candidate in the interests of the farmers, and to leave politics severely alone. There are sufficient doctors and millowners in Parliament at present to protect the interests of these two classes. The farmer's candidates are few. Politicians in order to catch votes always tell the farmer how much they are interested in the welfare of the farmer but if the farmers of Missisquoi desire to elect a real farmer to Ottawa they have the opportunity.

GEO. E. FORD

The farmers of Missisquoi during the coming elections will have an opportunity of voting for one of themselves, in the person of George E. Ford. Mr. Ford is principally known for the fact of being the farmer who has brought the question of tuberculosis in cattle and the shameful manner in which the Minister of Agriculture has treated this question to the attention of the public. Mr. Ford found that some of his cattle were diseased with tuberculosis. Believing that the Minister of Agriculture was seriously interested in the welfare of the farmer he communicated with the Department. After much tergiversation and much correspondence with sleepy department officials he at last succeeded in arousing some interest on the part of the officials. He was informed by Mr. Rutherford that milk from a tuberculous cow was not fit even for pigs. Mr. Ford ceased milking the diseased cattle and requested the department officials to come and ear mark his cattle. The department officials hemmed and hawed and said they really couldn't do it until Mr. Ford compelled them to do so. The whole course of the officials showed that Mr. Fisher has little regard for the health of the people or the welfare of the farmers.

Mr. Ford is running as an independent in the interests of the farmers. He is suffering financially yet from the fact of his fighting the Department on this question. Mr. Ford could go to Ottawa and give the Honourable Minister of Agriculture many pointers on how to benefit the farmer.

PARTY POLITICS

Both in Canada and the United States elections are about to be held. To a great extent the campaigns consist of mutual recriminations and charges of corruption. The Conservatives accuse the Liberals of being guilty of dishonesty, graft and corruption. The Liberals reply with like charges. Across the boundary line Bryan and Roosevelt are each saying "You're Another," and William Randolph Hearst every little while pipes up and nails some positive act of dishonesty on the part of members of both parties.

It is not a pretty spectacle when politics and politicians have degenerated to such an extent that elections must be run solely on the corruption cry. Yet it is a hopeful sign that both parties in both countries are considering it a disgrace to have corrupt men in their ranks. In former days the fact that a man could make a fortune in politics was looked upon as something in his favor. That day has passed and the better day is coming when politics will be clean and when they will be run on great policies and not on charges of corruption.

A want ad. in THE OBSERVER will dispose of the articles you don't need. Try it and see.

ON BANKS

Canadian banks are institutions where people deposit their money for nothing and then borrow it at seven per centum per annum. Canadian banks are haughty institutions especially during a panic. During panics Canadian banks either make big money or go under.

Canadians are very proud of their banks. Canadians are more aristocratic in their opinions than Americans. Being aristocratic means that many people pay money to few people in order that the few people need not work and can spend in expensive ways. Canadians do not possess a landed aristocracy as each farmer runs his own farm. To satisfy their aristocratic leanings the people of Canada take railroad magnates and bankers for their aristocracy.

Bankers particularly are the aristocracy of Canada. Just as in the small English villages the common people look up to the lord of the land so in Canada do the ordinary people look up to the banks.

Canadian bankers must be approached with fear and trembling, especially if the approacher wants to borrow from the approacher. The fear must be augmented greatly during panic times as loans of Canadian money are not then made to Canadians by Canadian banks. The Canadian money at such times is mostly down in New York helping American stock gamblers make money.

This is the way it works. A panic strikes New York. Stocks go down and become cheap. New Yorkers want lots of money to buy cheap stocks with Canadian money to New York. Some Canadians may desire to borrow money from Canadian banks to cover stocks they have bought on margin. Canadian banks cannot loan money to Canadians. It is all down in New York. The Canadian is sold out because he can't borrow money from Canadian banks and the New Yorker buys the stock cheap just because he can borrow money from Canadian banks.

Canadians should not object but should be glad to be sold out of their stock because their dear banker friends can lend their Canadian money to New Yorkers. And if they should get mad it would not do any good anyway. The bankers have had given them a fine bank act which lets them do about what they like with the people's money.

Some day we may say things the banks won't like but the time is not ripe for it.

OUR QUEBEC TRAMP LAWS

The Quebec Legislature, and for that matter the Dominion of Canada also, in the height of its ultimate wisdom has passed laws for the purpose of settling the tramp problem. Any person is a vagrant and liable to six months imprisonment with hard labor who wanders about the country with no visible means of support. Wise Legislature; wise Parliament of Canada. Every man out of a job and no place to go to, is a tramp and must be locked up.

In prosperous times there is little need for this law as all can have a chance to work. But in hard times there is great need for this most excellent law. Excellent from the bailiff's point of view who reaps good fees from arresting vagrants.

In hard times men are thrown out of work a few weeks out of work or even a few days' idleness means they cannot pay their rent and must get out. No job and no place to go to sleep and no money to get a place to rest in or to buy food with; this is their plight.

No matter how good a worker the man may be, nor how honest, nor how meritorious. Should he be so unfortunate as to be out of work with no money he is a vagrant and fit only for the jail. Six months at hard labor is his just due as set forth both by Dominion and Provincial laws.

And yet we are supposed to admire and praise legislators who think an honest man is fit for nothing but to be turned into a jail bird. Surely Canada possesses legislating gentlemen who might be exhibited in a museum of wise men who are fools.

THE SESSIONAL INDEMNITY

A Sweetsburg correspondent, who signs himself as R., desires to obtain an editorial opinion on the question of the \$2500 sessional indemnity. In our opinion the grab was unjustifiable. The members had been elected on a salary of \$1500. For the employees to raise their own wages without saying a word about it to their masters the people, was a betrayal of trust. The manner in which the members granted themselves increased remuneration certainly cannot be justified.

The further question as to whether twenty-five hundred dollars is sufficient amount for the services of the members of Parliament is open to discussion. For ourselves we do not believe it to be an excessive amount for an honest representative to receive.

When discussing the question of pay many questions must be taken into consideration. The \$2,500 is not considered as payment for services done, but as indemnity for losses suffered. In going to parliament a man's business affairs are disarranged. A doctor who goes to Ottawa for six months is bound to more or less disorganize his practice. A merchant who goes to Ottawa is bound to lose trade in his native town.

The position of representative is not permanent and when a representative's term is up he may find another person elected to fill his place and he himself will be thrown back upon a disorganized business or professional client.

For the brains necessary to represent a county, for the disorganization of the ordinary representative's business affairs, for recoupment of the necessary election expenses and for honesty in a candidate the \$2,500 is not a cent too much.

If the representatives be dishonest in parliament twenty-five hundred dollars for his services would be exorbitant.

The great body of electors are not objecting to the raise as they consider it only reasonable. The electors, however, objected most strenuously to the manner in which the increase was brought about. In their stand upon the increase itself as well as in their stand upon the manner of increase the electors are right.

THE DEBIT SIDE OF RICHES

We are accustomed to regard riches as something which is created that we often neglect to look upon the debit side of account. A man may become rich by making the countryside poor. Titles to wealth may be destroyed and the wealth will remain undestroyed but in different hands.

Recently in Ontario an office boy stole forty-four thousand dollars securities, principally in notes. The wealth was useless to the boy and he destroyed it. If the owner can prove the indebtedness against the individuals who owned the notes he will be none the poorer. If by the destruction of the notes he cannot prove the indebtedness of the signers of the destroyed note, then the owner will be that much poorer while the signers, if they do not come forward to pay voluntarily, will be that much richer.

When bank notes are burned, there is no wealth destroyed. The person who loses the bank notes become that much the poorer but the bank, freed from the necessity of paying for the notes destroyed, becomes just that much the richer.

Quite frequently a rich young fool will squander money and become bankrupt. This squandering of money is looked upon as a sad thing by many moralists and it is a sad thing if the young fools corrupt the morals of others through his money. If, however, he runs through his money foolishly but not wickedly, it may be a good thing for the community. Money represents promises to pay and if society can release itself from the payment of obligations in an easy manner, society is that much better off and the youth is that much poorer.

There are often riches that are not created but simply collected. One man becomes so much richer while to make up for it other men become poorer. Were it not for the rich young fools and the foolish distributing of gathered wealth, democracy would cease and Canada would become a plutocracy.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

The Liberals are casting many backward glances at the Conservative regime of '06. They point with contempt to the utter inefficiency of the Conservative government of that day. The Liberals are right in one respect. The Conservatives of '06 were not worthy of the confidence of the people of Canada.

But do the Liberals not recognize the risk they run in pointing backwards to '06? Do they not think that the electors have memories? The electors are glad that the Liberals recall the past because the recalling puts them in mind of the Liberal promises of those days. The Liberals were going to be honest. They were going to be economical. They were going to give the country cheap and efficient government. They were going to bring in a temperance measure and carry it did the people approve. Can they point to one pledge they have kept? The Ottawa Liberals of today are not Liberals. They are some strange hybrid species of creation, half Conservative and half a melange of corruption, inefficiency, bluster, and nonsense. Every time the Ottawa Liberals recall the day of '06 the electors think of broken promises and neglected Liberalism.

THE ALABAMA COAL STRIKE

The Alabama coal strike is ended by the complete surrender of the strikers. The Alabama mine owners can now sigh contentedly as they think of their mines being operated by starving workmen under the glorious liberty of the American flag.

Alabama was once a slave state and took great pride in the productivity of the State by nigger work. Today Alabama is theoretically free but slavery of the workers is almost as open and flagrant as in the old days before the war.

The mine workers in the coal regions of Alabama have been beaten down in their wages until their wages now represent a starvation existence. The workers, when conditions become unbearable, struck. The mine owners owned all the land near the mines and the wretched employees were all tenants of the mine owners. The shacks were and are such that Canadians would almost be ashamed to house their pigs therein. When the men struck and could not pay their rent they and their families were evicted. The sacred right of property, as we all know, comes before the right to live and to be housed. The strikers went forth with their families and made arrangements to dwell in a tented city. This did not suit the mine owners, who by the way have the democratic state government at their beck and call. The soldiery were called out and dispossessed the workers from the tents at the point of a bayonet. The workers and their families faced the option of wandering over the roads and of being arrested as vagrants and sent to the stone-pile or of capitulating unconditionally and of returning to backbreaking work for a beggar's wage. They have capitulated, and industrial peace reigns in Alabama.

PUBLICITY OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Two weeks ago Borden and his party were in Cowansville. They came in large coaches and they departed by a special train. Laurier has been travelling over the country in great style. The question naturally arises as to who is footing the bills. Travelling costs money and the public would like to know where the money comes from.

It would be a good plan for the parties to make public the sources whence they draw the cash for party purposes. We have had an amendment to the election act which materially assists in this direction, but this amendment deals only with expenses and contributions during the elections themselves. The public would be greatly pleased were they informed where the leaders of the parties get the funds to travel about the country and persuade the people that they alone can give the country honest government.

Further Editorial on Last Page

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Vote for Dan Meigs, the Liberal Apostle of Protection.

Mr. Fisher has talked political purity while his elections have been due to flagrant corruption.

Mr. Fisher may say we are waging a campaign of slander against him. What have we said that has not been true?

Mr. Fisher desires the support of the strong, self-respecting voters of Brome county. We do not believe he will obtain that support.

Mr. Fisher wants the votes of the Brome temperance voters. Does Mr. Fisher's parliamentary record warrant his getting them?

The Liberals are raking up the Conservative scandals of 1896. The electors are keeping their eyes firmly fixed on the Liberal scandals of 1908.

What has the Hon. Minister of Agriculture ever done for the temperance cause that the temperance voters of Brome county should support him?

Mr. Fisher has exhibited his utter incapacity as Minister of Agriculture in the enactments of his department with regard to tuberculosis in cattle.

The Liberals boast that the are spending eight hundred thousand dollars on Agriculture. The Liberal grafters will soon be turning up their nose at such a small sum.

The Liberal candidate for Brome county warns his followers that he will not be in Brome county to look after the campaign. It is our opinion he is afraid to face the music.

What is a half a million spent on agriculture when the friends of the Liberal government can haul money out of the public treasury in chunks of a hundred thousand dollars or so.

Mr. Fisher wants the support of the Brome farmers. Is it to the interest of the Brome farmers to support a Minister who is allowed next to nothing for his department by his colleagues?

Mr. Fisher desires the support of the electors who wish to see corruption cease and purity in elections brought about. Have the Liberal election methods of Brome county been such as to warrant these voters in supporting Mr. Fisher?

The Ottawa Liberals boast that they paid last year a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars as compensation for slaughtered animals. A relative of a government official made more than that on one Winnipeg land deal.

The Toronto Globe has a cartoon wherein Jack Canuck is walking arm in arm with Laurier and saying, "I like to walk with a man who can set the pace for me." As a matter of fact the Laurier government keeps us all humping to pay for its extravagance.

In Missisquoi Martin E. Baker and his Conservative Apaches are out after voters. The Liberal workers had better start on the war trail. The day is passed when Mr. Daniel Meigs can win a campaign by sitting comfortably in an easy chair.

William R. Hearst is dangling three scalps at his belt. Senator Foraker, Governor Haskell, and Dupont of the Powder Trust have all retired from active campaign work and active politics on account of his exposures. The American press is not poking so much fun as they were at little Willie and his "New York Journal."